Application Serial No. 10/759,811 Attorney Ref. No. 039US1

5/ THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

| In re: Patent Application of |) |
|---|-------------------------------|
| Patrick Miles et al. |) Group Art Unit: 3732 |
| App. Ser. No. 10/759,811 |)) |
| Filed: January 16, 2004 |) Examiner: Jonathan Werner) |
| For: Surgical Access System and Related Methods |)) |

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on December 5, 2007:

Rory Schermerhorn

Responsive Amendment

Mail Stop Amendment Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the Office Action mailed June 5, 2007 in the above-captioned application, having a three-month shortened statutory period for response which expired September 5, 2007, please amend the application as set forth below.